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REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed November 13, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment places this application in condition for allowance, and therefore entry of this amendment is proper at this after-final stage.

To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks, have canceled claims and have amended the claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1, 4-5, 10, 13-14, 19-22, 25 and 30 have been cancelled, and claims 2, 6, 8-9, 11, 15, 17-18, 23-24, 26-27, 29, 31 and 32-34 have been amended. In particular, claims 23-24, 26, 27, 29 and 31 have been re-written in independent form, and the remaining amendments are made to adjust claim dependencies and ensure consistency in light of the cancellation of the original independent claims.

The cancellation of claims herein is not to be seen as agreement with or acquiescence to the rejections set forth in the final Office Action, but rather as action taken to move the present application toward an early allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims identical or similar to the cancelled claims, and indeed claims of other scope as well, in one or more other applications.

The Office Action indicates that claims 23, 24, 26-29 and 31 are allowable if re-written in independent form, and this action has been taken herein. It is respectfully submitted that all the claims of this application are now allowable. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments herein and the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the

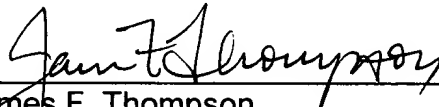
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Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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